

October 15th Solidarity newsletter

1 August 2008 Campaign update Issue 5

Kia ora,
This newsletter is from www.October15thSolidarity.info We send out irregular updates on the campaign to support the people arrested in the so-called 'anti-terror' raids in Aotearoa (New Zealand) on 15 October 2007, 19 February and 17 April 2008.

There are Solidarity crews working around the country if you would like to get involved in organising, email info@october15thsolidarity.info for more details. You can make a financial donation to the campaign by direct deposits or automatic payments at any Kiwibank, Account name: October 15 Solidarity, Account Number: 38-9007-0239672-000. Please specify if the money is for 'legal defence', for 'arrestee support' or for 'campaign work'. Cheques made out to 'October 15 Solidarity' can be posted to October 15 Solidarity, PO Box 9263, Wellington, New Zealand. If you would like to submit writing, photos, stories, or responses, please get in touch! info@october15thsolidarity.info www.october15thsolidarity.info

Solidarity Statement

We demand the unconditional freedom of the people who are facing charges as a result of the state terror raids on 15 October 2007. Attempts by the Police to lay charges under the Terrorism Suppression Act (TSA) failed but people are still facing politically motivated charges under the Arms Act. These charges are the result of a racist operation.

Police used the Terrorism Suppression Act and over \$8 million to harass and punish political activists who they saw as supporting Tino Rangatiratanga.

The Police have arrested a few people but we're all targeted. The arrests of 15 October are aimed at intimidating and frightening all of our communities and cannot be tolerated. We therefore call on everyone to stand up against this attack on our communities. We support the global day of action on 30 August 2008 and are mobilising to demand the unconditional freedom of the people facing charges as a result of the state terror raids.



The Solidarity Statement is for both individuals and groups to sign.

We/I support the Solidarity Statement:

Name: _____

Organisation: _____

Contact address/email: _____

Please add me to your mailing list

We are interested in organising or providing a speaker for the day of action

Please send me resources for community organising around these issues

Please return this form to: October 15th Solidarity, PO Box 9263, Wellington. Alternatively, you can sign the statement electronically on our website at www.October15thSolidarity.info

Global Day of Action: 30 August ★ Drop the Charges!

What is happening?

There are demonstrations and actions being planned around the globe. In Wellington, there will be an action starting at 12 noon at 128 Abel Smith Street, the community house that was raided by Police. People should come along prepared for a demonstration and protest. It might include a tour of the places that were raided and a visit to the local police station. Bring along your signs, banners, placards, do some street theatre and make some noise for justice and freedom!

You can find out what is happening in your community by checking out the www.October15thSolidarity.info website. If nothing is organised in your community, you could do something with your friends, family and local networks. The October 15th Solidarity group in Wellington can help you with resources including posters, leaflets and information. We'll see you in the streets!



Hearing Starts 1 September

All but one of the 20 defendants are due to have a depositions hearing starting on 1 September in the Auckland District Court. This hearing is effectively a preliminary step in which the Crown must prove that it has a 'prima facie' case (literally a case 'on the face of it') against each of the accused. There will be the presentation of evidence to determine whether the defendant has a case to answer before a jury. There is a low threshold to prove a 'prima facie' case. Following this, defendants will be committed to trial by jury. This will likely happen in mid- to late 2009.

The depositions hearing is set down to run from 1 September – 11 September. There will then be a one week break. The hearing will resume on 22 September and is set down to last until 3 October. During the depositions, the defendants

can call any of the Crown's witnesses. This will be their opportunity to see the extent of the case against them and get clarification on various matters and statements. All of the arrestees have been excused from legal representation. However, the October 15th Solidarity support crew is urging arrestees and whānau to attend at least the first week to get a clear idea of what is happening. Obviously, there will be significant expenses for people who will have to be away from their homes and jobs for that time. Any contributions of funds and/or food would be greatly appreciated. For details, please email Info@October15thSolidarity.info



Don't forget our history...

A common myth circulating out in the community is that it has been a long, long time since an activist or protestor was imprisoned in Aotearoa. People jokingly remark that none of the October 15th defendants will really go to prison. They're wrong, they could.

You don't have to delve very far in our history to recall people sentenced to prison after a demonstration or protest. In the early '90s there were the paper-bag protestors – two people were locked up for pouring concrete down a sewerage outlet. In the mid-80s, another two were imprisoned for throwing eggs at Queen Elizabeth II. During the 1981 Tour, many people got prison sentences – including members of the Patu Squad. During the pro-abortion campaign people served jail sentences, I recall being told that one woman died shortly after she finished her sentence, her cancer was not treated whilst she was in prison.

Protestors and activists do go to prison in this country.

Remands in custody also happen. We all know that the October 15th defendants were originally denied bail. But there have been many others; some of those people are now MPs.

Then there are the activists who have gone to prison for other 'crimes.' People who have been harassed because of their political actions and ended up in prison convicted of such things as 'theft', 'burglary', 'assault' and 'robbery.' There are a lot of them out there. We know that this history is not complete and only goes back to the 1980s. The history of resistance and repression is far, far longer. We want to acknowledge all of those whose names and actions we don't know about.

The next time someone says activists don't go to prison in this country, remind them it's a very real possibility.



AUG/SEPT SOLIDARITY EVENTS roundup

Everywhere: Global Day of Action, Sat Aug 30th, get involved. Visit the October 15th website to find out what's happening in your area. Now is time to educate, agitate and organise in your community!

Auckland/Tāmaki Makarau:

A Demo: Sat Aug 30th details to be confirmed. Auckland@October 15th Solidarity.info Court Appearance: Deposition hearing at the Auckland District Court, Sept 1st at 10am. Film Screening: *3 Black Panthers & The Last Slave Plantation*. Mon Sept 1st, 6.30pm @ Clubspace, AUSA Quad, off Alfred & Princes Sts. Auckland University. Entry by koha.

Hamilton/Kirikiriroa:

Film Screening: *The Last Resort*. Sept 5th, 7pm at the Migrant Resource Centre, Boundary Rd. This provocative documentary centres around the proposed subdivision of the 60 year old Opoutama campground in Mahia, and subsequent occupation.

New Plymouth/Ngāmotu: Sat Aug 30th protest along the route of the prisoners of Parinaka

Raglan/Whaingaroa: Sat Aug 30th action in the streets, details to be confirmed

Wellington/Te Whanganui a Tāmaki: Demo: Sat Aug 30th, meet at 12 noon, 128 Abel Smith St. Benefit Gig: Thurs Aug 28th, 9pm, at the Adelaide pub in Newtown, \$5 Banner Painting/Chalking/Posterering Mahi: at 128 at 12, Saturdays Aug 9th and 23rd Organising meetings: Weekly, Tues at 7pm at Oblong Internet Cafe, Left Bank, Cuba St

Ngāi Tūhoe signs Terms of Negotiation

Ngāi Tūhoe entered the beehive with around 500 people on Thursday, 31 July for the signing of the Terms of Negotiations for their historical Waitangi Tribunal claims. When entering the semi-circular banquet hall, a haka - Te Pūru - was chanted. The formal proceedings were done with Te Ati Awa kawa. Two Te Ati Awa kaumata did a whaikōrero followed by Minister of Māori Affairs, Parekura Horomia. Then a speaker of Ngāi Tūhoe responded. He talked about the colonial invasions in the 1860s and 1916 and the confiscation of land as well as the state terror raids last October. Michael Cullen, Minister of Minister in Charge of Treaty of Waitangi Negotiations, addressed Ngāi Tūhoe. "I would also like to briefly acknowledge that less than a year ago the events at Rūatoki provided a fresh point of tension in our relationship. It would not be appropriate or helpful for me to comment on the merits of the events of last October. I know emotions are still raw and opinions strongly held. But I am very pleased that less than a year later we are able to join together to show that it is the future that is first and foremost on the minds of Ngāi Tūhoe."

However, the actions of Te Wheeti Tūhi during the signing itself show that Ngāi Tūhoe has not forgotten the raids last year, nor the confiscation, the scorched earth campaigns and murder in previous years. Te Wheeti, who was arrested on 15th October 2007 when he challenged police setting up their roadblock on the confiscation line just out of Rūatoki, refused to shake hands with Michael Cullen and instead showed him his middle finger.

Tāmati Kruger, chairperson of Te Kotahī ā Tūhoe Trust said there would be some sensitive issues in negotiations that could create "unease" for the Crown. "I think the tricky

issues are around Tūhoe's desire and wish to have Te Urewera National Park regarded as part of our territory. The second one that would be difficult for the Crown would be discussions over self government, over mana motuhake and sovereignty." He said that he has recently met with Police Commissioner Howard Broad to settle out of court over last year's state terror raids. It is rumored that Broad will visit Te Urewera in October this year - or in Tame Iti's words: "Broadband is coming to Rūatoki."

Tame Iti gave Michael Cullen a taiaha during the ceremony. "Te rākau nei, kei te haere ki te minita, mo te hoki mai o te whenua, ko Te Mana Motuhake ō Tūhoe. Ae, me whakawhititi koreto īātou, ko Te Mana Motuhake ō Tūhoe kia hoki mai a Te Urewera. ko te kaupapa nui inaianei, me pēhea, me aha?"

After the signing of dozens of Tūhoe, Te Pūru was chanted again. A hākari was held at Pipitea Marae. Police were also at the beehive. Two cops of the Strategic Response

